

What's Going On?

April 2004

A Report to the Honorable Mayor and City Council

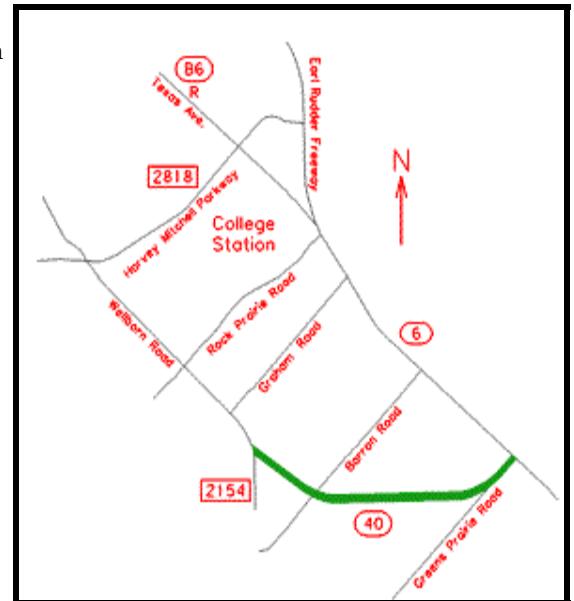
Construction Begins on Highway 40

The Texas Department of Transportation began construction on Highway 40 on April 5, 2004. This project will connect South Highway 6, at Greens Prairie Road, to Wellborn Road near Graham Road. The planned facility is a four-lane roadway with a median separating each direction of traffic. Public meetings were held to assist in determining a preferred alignment and planning the preliminary roadway layout.



Construction on Highway 40 in April 2004.

According to the Carlos Rodriquez, a Transportation Engineer with the Texas Department of Transportation, "This project is anticipated to last 18 months. For the first year, the contractor should be working across the new location areas and impacting traffic only at Barron Road and Wellborn Road. Upon completion of these areas, the contractor will then focus on the Greens Prairie/South Highway 6 interchange area and Frontage Road intersections. Greens Prairie will be replaced by Highway 40 on the west approach to South Highway 6. From the west, Greens Prairie will tie into South



Highway 40 at a T-intersection." The contract cost for this project is approximately \$7 million.

Community Development Block Grant Funds Public Facility Improvements

Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds are currently improving three low-to-moderate-income locations in College Station:

Contractor Brazos Valley Services is nearing completion of drainage improvements in the Southside neighborhood bounded by Guernsey, Welch, Luther and Fairview. Construction is scheduled to be complete by August.

In Northgate, Young Construction is proceeding with the rehabilitation of First, Maple, and Louise streets. Construction is scheduled for completion by November.



At the Lincoln Center, preliminary design is complete for a 3,500 square foot building addition, covered pavilion, and parking expansion. This project went to bid in March.

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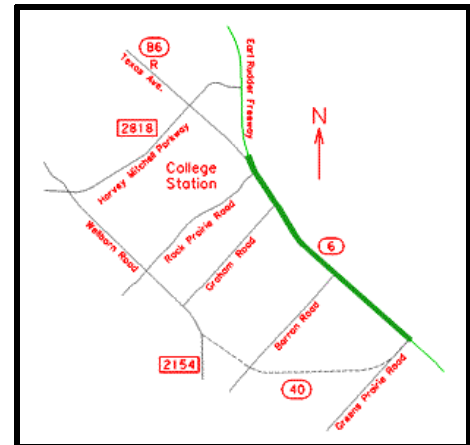
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Ramp Project for Highway 6 Underway

Construction of new exit ramps are underway off of Highway 6 in College Station. The Texas Transportation Department reports that the South Highway 6 Ramps Project, from Deacon/Texas Avenue Intersection to Greens Prairie Road in south College Station is currently in the process of plans development. This project was developed to alleviate traffic congestion at the Rock Prairie and Greens Prairie intersections with the frontage roads. The contract cost is roughly \$7 million. The project will be broken into two phases of construction beginning at different times. The first phase of the project is

anticipated to begin construction sometime in the Spring of 2005. The second phase construction date has not yet been determined. The first phase will consist of constructing a turnaround at Greens Prairie Road, and several ramps prior to converting the frontage roads to one way. After conversion, some old ramps will close, new ramps will be opened, and traffic exiting to Rock Prairie will utilize the West Frontage Road between Deacon and Rock Prairie. The second phase of construction consists of adding additional ramps, closing old ramps, realigning the

West Frontage Road from just south of Rock Prairie to Deacon Road, and building a bridge structure for the future Rock Prairie Road exit ramp.



College Station-Bryan Garner's Top Texas Spot in National Ratings

Curious about how our community stacks up with the rest of the country? Answers to that question are featured in the most recent edition of "Cities Ranked and Rated," which placed the College Station-Bryan area in the No. 14 spot – the highest ranked Texas city.

Authors Bert Sterling and Peter Sander said they examined more than 100 pieces of information about each location under consideration. They were grouped into nine categories, including economy and jobs, cost of living, climate, education, arts and culture.

"We add in a factor for intangibles and another for consistency across categories, press a button, and voila," said Sander during an appearance on NBC's Today show.

Ranked in the top 25 were: 1. Charlottesville, VA; 2. Santa Fe, NM; San Luis Obispo, CA; Santa Barbara, CA; 5. Honolulu, HI; 6. Ann Arbor, MI; 7. Atlanta, GA; 8. Asheville, NC; 9. Reno, NV; 10. Corvallis, OR.; 11. Roa-

noke, VA; 12. Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA; 13. Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC; 14. College Station-Bryan, TX; 15. Lynchburg, VA; 16. Olympia, WA; 17. Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport News, VA-NC; 18. Colorado Springs, CO; 19. Nassau-Suffolk, NY; 20. Pueblo, CO; 21. Eugene-Springfield, OR; 22. Austin-San Marcos, TX; 23. Lafayette, IN; 24. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; 25. Dover, DE.

When asked what places generally top the list, the authors stated that "college towns do especially well. The strength in higher education spills over into all levels of education, and most have excellent health care facilities."

As for the bad news, those listed at the bottom of principal metropolitan areas were 327. Kankakee, IL; 328. Merced, CA; 329. Newburgh, NY; 330. Stockton-Lodi, CA; and 331. Laredo, TX

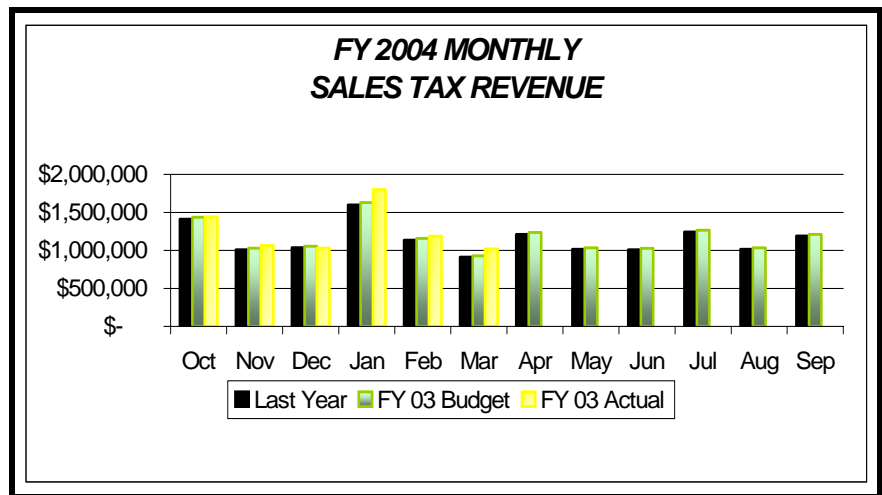
Top 15 Cities

According to Best Sterling and Peter Sanders

1. Charlottesville, VA
2. Santa Fe, NM
3. Santa Barbara, CA
4. San Luis Obispo, CA
5. Honolulu, HI
6. Ann Arbor, MI
7. Atlanta, GA
8. Asheville, NC
9. Reno, NV
10. Corvallis, OR
11. Roanoke, VA
12. Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA
13. Raleigh-Durham-Chappell Hill, NC
14. College Station-Bryan, TX
15. Lynchburg, VA

Sales Tax Receipts Exceed Expectations For Third Consecutive

The City collected **\$1,019,419.61 in sales tax** for the month of March; a **12%** increase from the same month last year. The March receipts reflect sales in February. Sales tax collections for FY 04 YTD are **\$7,546,741.75** or **6.29%** above FY 03 collections. Sales tax receipts have increased by 4.39% when comparing the last 12 months to the previous 12 months. This month's receipts continue to affirm steady growth in the local economy.



Cleaning up in College Station is a Big Event

More than 8,000 Big Event volunteers participated in numerous clean-up and repair projects throughout College Station and Bryan on March 27.

Thanks to 12 Texas A&M Big Event volunteer students, Veterans Park and Athletic Complex looks better. The park was submitted and chosen as one of the numerous Big Event work sites. The students spent about four hours removing the support wires from hundreds of newly planted trees throughout the park

and also removed the erosion control fencing from the west side of the park. The Big Event is the largest one-day student run service project in

the nation. Last year over 7000 students volunteered to complete over 575 jobs in the Bryan/College Station Community.

The Big Event began in 1982 when six Aggies cleaned a local cemetery. Led by Joe Nussbaum, The Big Event was and still is a way for Aggies to thank the Bryan and College Station community each year.



Pool Hours Are Set for Summer 2004

Summer has just begun and it is time to enjoy College Station's pools.

Adamson Lagoon Pool is open to the general public as follows: 1-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 2-7 p.m. Friday and 12-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. An individual season pass is \$80.00 and a family season pass is \$200.00. General admission for Adamson is \$4.00. Southwood Hallaran Pool is open to the general public 10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12-7 p.m. on Sat-

urday and Sunday. Thomas Park Pool general public hours are 12-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12-7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. General admission for both Hallaran and Thomas Pools is \$2.50, individual season passes, \$60 and family season passes \$125.

Adamson and Thomas Pool offer swim lessons and Hallaran offers water aerobics. Call 764-3486 for more information about swim lessons, water aerobics or the pools in general.

The pools are also available for parties during the days and after hours, contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more information.



City Employees Participate in Annual Trash-Off



Registration at City Hall.

City Employees and their family members participated in the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, April 3, 2004. Employees met at College Station City Hall to clean several areas around the City.

The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is a part of the partner-

ship between Keep Texas Beautiful (locally Keep Brazos Beautiful) and the Texas Department of Transportation. It is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state where over 200,000 volunteers offer their time to keep our state beautiful. The Trash-Off is also the signature litter prevention event of the Great



Sanitation Lends a Hand



Katie King, of Fiscal Services, collects trash.

American Cleanup, which is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful and takes place throughout the United States, March through May. A special thanks goes to Kate Elrod, Neighborhood Services Planner, for coordinating this event.

Xtra Education Closes Spring Semester

It is not too late to enroll in an Xtra Education class for Spring 2004. There are several classes that will be offered throughout the month of May for anyone interested in educational/recreational activities. All classes are open to anyone 13 years of age or older.

The Xtra Education program is a cooperative joint venture involving College Station Parks and Recreation Department and CSISD. Together, they have produced the finest quality educational/recreational programs.

This Spring, the curriculum included: Arts, Crafts, Computers, Cooking, Dance, Dog Obedience, Gardening, Guitar, Hunters Safety, Leisure Life, Languages, Messina Hof, Outdoors, Photography, Needleworks, Self Help, Seniors, Sewing, Swimming, Tennis and Water Aerobics.

These creative activity programs are designed to give quality

Xtra classes still available for May:

- Texas Natives in Your Landscape, Wed. May 5 7-8:30 p.m.
- Bush Museum Classic Film Series Thurs. May 13 7 p.m.
- Seniors Computer 101 Mon./Wed. May 3-19 9-10:30 a.m. or 10:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.
- Seniors Computer 102 Tues./Thurs. May 4-20 9-10:30 a.m. or 10:45-12:15 p.m.

educational activities that are fun and rewarding. All of the programs are conveniently scheduled during the evening hours to allow participants to utilize leisure time for educational activities. There are no exams, grades, or degrees. Instead, Xtra Education offers the opportunity to learn and explore special interests in a positive, informal learning environment. Look for more Xtra Education classes in the Fall of 2004. Xtra Education is always looking for new course ideas and input from the community. For more information on this program, contact the program director, Dana Albrecht at 764-3486.

To enroll, visit the Xtra Education Office in College Station Central Park in the Parks and Recreation building (1000 Krenk Tap).

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SHINING MOMENTS

- **Facilities Maintenance Technician Walter Jones** was thanked by City Manager Tom Brymer for "getting the City Hall U.S. flag to me a week ago Saturday evening for the Cuidad Real, Spain delegation. I know this was after hours and all involved I want to thank deeply for the extra effort and apologize for any inconvenience it may have caused. It was a last minute add on to the program at the Ambassador's Ball, but it was really appreciated by the Spanish delegation. They told us they could buy a U.S. flag in Spain, but it meant much more to them knowing this one had flown over the CS City Hall."
- **Community Programs Coordinator Peggy Calliham** was thanked for her time and leadership in the Citizens' University. Don Braune, a participant in Citizens' University, also wrote, "I'm also grateful to the City of College Station for offering this program, as well as Citizens' Police Academy (which I have also attended) and Citizens' Fire Academy. Unlike many governmental entities that tend to "dumb people down"....the City of College Station wants to "smart people up"! And....I believe the latter is better because an informed public is the answer for, not bigger, but a more productive government. I can speculate how valuable it would be when additional taxes are proposed, or when bond issues are necessary, to have an educated and interested citizenry with which to communicate."
- Beatrice Dias-Wanigasekera from Wellington, New Zealand requested a copy of our Park Maintenance Standards. She became aware of the maintenance standards through our web site. After receiving information along with our Parks calendar and other printed information, she expressed her many thanks for the prompt response.
- **Parks Director Steve Beachy** received the following email from BVCASA: "Just wanted to let you know how much fun the kick ball game was. We really appreciate all of your support for this event. Your department was such a blessing to our agency. Thank you so much for your help!"
- C.L. Pelfz thanked the Sanitation staff for their "greatest service—workmanship—and clean-up of the street after picking up extra tree limbs, etc. that I have incurred the past 3-4 weeks., They always do an outstanding job."

Last Call For Alcohol Deemed a Success

One of the goals for Teen Court this year was to create or find some programs that fit the Restorative Justice format. The Restorative Justice format involves showing offenders what impact their offense has on themselves, those around them, and the community in a very meaningful way. Joe Brown, KBTX News Anchor, has had a very public and difficult bout with alcohol. He has been sober for three years and is working through the twelfth step of his 12 Step Alcohol program. Recently he indicated he would like to go public with his alcohol problem to help keep other young people from making the same mistakes.

Peggy Calliham, the City's Community Program's Coordinator, spoke with Judge Spillane, who was also in-

terested in providing more meaningful programs and they set up this program as a requirement for our alcohol offenders both in Municipal Court and Teen Court.

Together Peggy Calliham and Judge Spillane held the pilot program on April 22, with 23 college and high school offenders participating. Joe told his story about being one of the 15% of all people who are addicted to alcohol. He is from a very loving and supportive family, and as he says "grew up like Beaver Cleaver". But about seven years ago his whole life came crashing down on him because of his alcoholism. The kids were absolutely spellbound and thanked him for his courage to tell that story to help them.

An anonymous survey of participants received positive responses. 95% of participants ranked the session as very good, or excellent, while 4% ranked the session as good. All of the participants rated the effectiveness of presenter as either good, very good or excellent. "This experience will change my life for good, I think about myself and I don't want to be an alcoholic or end up my life drinking. Thank you very much for this class," and "I am glad Joe did this for all of us. I could see how hard it was for him," were two of the comments received on the survey.

This session will serve as a part of the City's municipal/teen court program on a quarterly basis and the next program is July 15, 2004 at the College Station Conference Center at 7:30 p.m.